

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A3NEW YORK TIMES
10 March 1986

U.S. and Soviet Hold Talks on Chemical Weapons

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 7 — American and Soviet officials have completed two days of talks on ways to stop the spread of chemical weapons, Reagan Administration officials said today.

The talks, which were held on Wednesday and Thursday in Bern, Switzerland, were positive in tone, the officials said.

The meeting represented the first attempt to follow through on a pledge made at the November summit meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to initiate discussion of ways to prevent the spread of chemical weapons.

"It was the start of a dialogue," an Administration official said, adding that the talks were "nonpolemical and constructive."

The American representative to the talks was John H. Hawes of the State Department's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs. The Soviet representative was Viktor L. Israelyan, the Soviet

delegate to the Geneva-based Committee on Disarmament.

Administration officials said the meeting dealt with the need for better export controls on substances that can be used to make chemical weapons.

A State Department official said the Soviet Union had recently established some export controls over such chemicals. But the United States is seeking additional export controls, another official said.

Another topic discussed at Bern involved countries that are most inclined to produce and use chemical weapons, officials said. In the war between Iran and Iraq, each side has accused the other of using such weapons.

Administration experts said intelligence reports showed that Iraq had recently used mustard gas. They said there was no indication that Iran had used chemical weapons recently, as Iraqi military officials have charged.

The American side at Bern also raised the issue of "yellow rain." The

Administration has charged that the Soviet Union has been involved in producing trichothecene mycotoxins for use as a chemical weapon in Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union has denied producing or using such "yellow rain" agents, and some scientists maintain that purported traces of the substance are actually the feces of bees left from cleansing flights.

United States officials made the point that the reported use of "yellow rain" agents had the effect of undercutting international moral standards against use of chemical weapons, an official said.

Kenneth L. Adelman, the director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, told reporters today that there was no evidence that use of "yellow rain" has continued in 1985.

Administration officials said the ultimate goal of the talks was to encourage a formal agreement that would prevent the spread of chemical weapons by eliminating all nations' stocks and production facilities.